

May 5, 1983

LB 628

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Kahle.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm going to oppose this amendment. Now what's happened very simply is Senator Vickers along with a few other of us like myself have conducted a longstanding guerilla war against the vet college, lost the war. Vet college is on its way. Senator Vickers has concluded that there's some other agricultural interests the University system that are not being funded adequately. Senator Vickers says, well by golly, we're going to have a vet college, let's also fund or other agricultural interests adequately. Well let me tell you, there are a lot of nonagricultural interests in the University system that are not funded adequately. We don't have a good computer system in the University system. You've read the articles in the newspaper about our lack of modern computing facilities in University system but nobody is up here to fund that adequately. We have many research functions going on in our Arts and Science colleges that are not being funded adequately. We have a pressing need for more books and periodicals in our library for research that's not being funded adequately. Now my feeling is that if we're going to start funding things adequately in the University system, then instead of simply coming down on an agricultural issue because we've had to deal with the vet school because that issue has been argued and in effect lost for Senator Vickers point of view or for my point of view, too for that matter doesn't mean that by the same token we should now come back in and fund other agricultural interests to make certain that all of agriculture is happy. It's not a question of keeping everybody happy. It's a question of doing what's right by our universities. If Senator Vickers were to come in with an amendment to say we're going to put more money in the Love Library, we're going to put more money in the UNO Library, we're going to provide more computer hardware and software for our classrooms, we are going to provide more research facilities, and in addition we're going to take care of the diagnostic laboratory, then I would say that's worth looking at. But I think it's wrong for us simply to single out one particular interest, one fairly parochial concern and go ahead and provide money for it. When Senator Sieck got up and spoke, he indicated that a number of our farmers were still able to use, they were still able to get laboratory services though not from the diagnostic center at the University of Nebraska. They had to send samples out of state. But it is not as though the offering has been totally and absolutely denied. Now in truth, if you haven't got adequate books in the one University that a lot of our youngsters go to, then those youngsters are being deprived of an adequate education. But we're not even talking about putting books in. That, in my opinion, is a priority item. In the last